

## COLLECTING ACMAEODERA IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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The mountains both east and west of the Santa Clara Valley are good collecting areas for members of this genus. The dry chaparral-covered region east of Mt. Hamilton and the dense scrub oak near its summit are the choicest spots in which to search for them. June is the best month, though some may be taken earlier. After the first of July, the collecting fades rapidly due to the dry conditions.

Beating, sweeping and inspection are the methods of collecting that are usually most productive. However, netting individuals as they fly to plants is the best method on certain days when many of them are on the wing. It requires a little practice to know an *Acmaeodera* in flight, but once the cut of body and wings, as well as the peculiar hovering habit, is known, it is distinctive. This method has the advantage of not disturbing the natural behavior of the beetles. On favorable days one can stand in one spot and take a series. Some of the species are attracted to flowers, but unfortunately, in this area those that behave in this way are usually members of very common species.

To date, eighteen species have been taken in the county, but some of these are represented by but one to a few specimens. No doubt other species remain to be detected. There follows an enumeration of the known species for the area, together with the plants with which they are associated, insofar as this is known.

*coquilletti* Fall

Taken on and in association with Scrub Oak (*Quercus dumosa* Nutt.) Very common here, although in some places rare.

*plagiaticauda* Horn

One only, taken on Mt. Hamilton, by beating from Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.) This species seems to be rare.

*jocosa* Fall

Not common. Found east of Mt. Hamilton on Chamise Brush (*Adenostoma fasciculatum* H. & A.)

*angelica* Fall

General on both sides of the valley and also east of Mt. Hamilton. Very common, found on many kinds of scrub brush. Perhaps the most common species in the region.

*nexa* Fall

Scarce. Three specimens to date, all taken on Mt. Hamilton, in beatings, plant not noted.

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*dolorosa* Fall

Scarce. Two, Mt. Hamilton, in beatings, plant not noted.

*hepburni* Lec.

Common on both sides of the valley and east of Mt. Hamilton. Attracted to many kinds of flowers, but especially to *Eriophyllum* spp. (Compositae). I have dug adults from twigs of *Ceanothus* spp. in Santa Cruz County.

*quadriseriata* Fall

Rare or overlooked. One only, Mt. Hamilton, in sweepings.

*acuta* Lec.

Fairly common on both sides of the valley. On flowers of many sorts, especially *Eriophyllum*. This is at times the commonest species.

*connexa* Lec.

Oddly, this common species is either rare or overlooked in this region. One only, Silver Creek Hills, May 26, 1940, on Yarrow or "Queen Anne's Lace" (*Achillea millefolium* L.)

*vandykei* Fall

Not common, but widely distributed. Found on both sides of the valley. Usually taken by beating on *Ceanothus* spp.

*prorsa* Fall

Locally common in two widely separated localities, Stevens Creek, on the west side, and just beyond the summit of Mt. Hamilton, on the east side. Found flying around Scrub Oak and at times resting on the tips of Manzanita.

*simulans* Van Dyke

A good series was taken at Isabel Creek, east of Mt. Hamilton, June, 1951, but has not been taken before or since.

*guttifera* Lec.

Not common. Taken east of Mt. Hamilton, mostly on the Arroyo Bayo, in June, on *Rhamnus crocea* Nutt. (Redberry)

*sinuata* Van Dyke

This striking species is not common. Most of the ones I have seen have been taken in flight around Buck Brush (*Ceanothus cuneatus* (Hook.) Nutt. This species is distinctive-looking in flight because of its bright pattern of coloration.

*adenostomae* Cazier

Found on both sides of the valley, in chaparral areas where *Adenostoma* grows. Fairly common in June.

*perlanosa* Timberlake

I have not personally taken this species in this county, but have been



in the field when it was taken by other collectors. It has been found in the Stevens Creek Area on *Eriodictyon californicum* (H. & A.) Greene. This species is fairly common in the Panoche Valley in San Benito County, and near Atascadero and in the Pine Mountains (La Panza Range) in San Luis Obispo County. In these areas it is taken on *Eriodictyon crassifolium* Benth.

*gemina* Horn

Apparently scarce. Two only, both taken June 30, 1951, on the Arroyo Bayo east of Mt. Hamilton. They were flying in hot sunlight at mid-day, over Tar Weed (*Madia* sp.) in a dry open field.

I am indebted to Mr. Jacques Helfer for checking determinations of this genus in my collection.

#### BEETLE PEST CONDITIONS

During the first quarter of 1954 the Economic Insect Survey Section received several notes of interest to coleopterists. Although the majority of the reports were for the 1953 season, they still deserve mention.

Lesser clover leaf weevil (*Hypera nigrirostris* (F.)), which was reported in Nebraska for the first time in 1952, was found general in eastern areas of the State during 1953, where it damaged red clover. Sweetclover weevil (*Sitona cylindricollis* Fähr.) was determined from two collections from Atchinson and New Madrid Counties, Missouri last year, thereby establishing statewide occurrence. Reports from that State indicate that this insect and clover root curculio (*S. hispidula* (F.)) may be responsible for the serious decline in sweetclover acreage in Missouri during the past three years. Western corn rootworm (*Dia-brotica virgifera* LeC.) damage in Kansas in 1953 was greater than in any previous year.

The dermestid, *Trogoderma granarium* Everts, was reported from Arizona for the first time early in February. Specimens were taken from a flour and feed mill in Phoenix. In connection with the attention being given this pest and stored grain insects in general in California, there have been found among miscellaneous collections specimens of a grain beetle (*Lophocateres pusillus* (Klug)) and a flour beetle (*Palorus ratzburgi* Wissm.). Both of these are first records for California.

As an example of the importance of the heavy infestations of boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis* Boh.) in some of the southeastern states in 1953, North Carolina estimated that the insect caused approximately 25,000,000 dollars loss to the State's cotton growers.

Smaller European elm bark beetle (*Scolytus multistriatus* (Marsh.)) was found in Nebraska for the first time in 1953 according to reports. Specimens were collected from a declining elm in Omaha. Coleopterous conditions in the Nation's forests were covered in detail in the summary of the more important forest insects in 1953, released through the Cooperative Economic Insect Report in February 1954 by the Division of Forest Insects Research, Forest Service.

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